

APPENDIX B
AGENCY COMMENTS AND CLEARANCE LETTERS



June 22, 2000

District Engineer
Galveston District
Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Subject: **Application for Section 10 River Crossing Approval**
 Brownville Public Utilities Board
 138-kV Transmission Line Interconnection to Mexico

Dear Sir:

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) proposes to construct a new 138-kV transmission line from BPUB's Silas Ray Power Plant in Cameron County, Texas into Mexico ("the Project"). Enclosed is the application for aerial crossing of the Rio Grande River for the proposed line in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). The application consists of Form 4345, three 8.5 x 11 drawings, Permit Table and a copy of the Presidential Permit Application which has been submitted to the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE). The Presidential Permit Application includes an environmental assessment for the Project.

The Project consists of a double circuit 138-kV electric transmission line from BPUB's Silas Ray Power Plant substation to and across the Rio Grande River, a distance of approximately 3,000 feet. After the river crossing, the Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) will extend the line approximately 1,600 feet into Mexico to an existing 69/138-kV transmission line right-of-way and then approximately 1.4 miles to a CFE substation in Matamoros. Figures 1 and 2 in this application illustrate the location, plan and cross-section of the river crossing. Figure 3 provides the details of the river crossing structures, which will be a three-pole wood-type structure. The other structures for the line will be wood H-frame-type structures. The Project will avoid any impacts on the river channel by completely spanning the river from bank to bank. The line will parallel an existing BPUB access road. No wetlands will be impacted by the Project.

The attached environmental assessment includes a more detailed description of the Project, the anticipated environmental impacts and copies of consultation letters received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Coastal Coordination Council, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Texas Historical Commission.

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Galveston District Engineer
June 7, 2000
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If you have questions concerning this application, please contact Kathleen Garrett or James McCann (956-982-6100) on my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John Buciak', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Buciak
General Manager

c w/enc: Kathleen Garrett, BPUB
Albert Gomez, BPUB
James McCann, BPUB
Richard Smith, BPUB
Ivan Clark, R. W. Beck, Inc.
William Mundt, R. W. Beck, Inc.